

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 57, 58, 62-64, 67, 77-80, 83, 85, 90-91, and 94-101 are presently active; Claims 57, 77, 90, 95, and 101 have been presently amended, Claims 1-56, 59-61, 68 76, and 84 have been previously canceled without prejudice, Claims 65, 66, 69-75, 81, 82, 86-89, 92, and 93 have been canceled presently without prejudice.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 86-89 and 92-93 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description. Claim 95-101 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Claims 95-101 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description and for not being enabled. Claims 57-58, 63-67, 71-75, 77-83, 85, 90-91, and 94 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jinriki et al in view of Bersin (U.S. Pat. No. 4,687,544) or Green et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,863,843) or Ishii (U.S. Pat. No. 5,683,537). Claims 62 and 70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jinriki et al in view of Bersin or Green et al and further in view of Jap. Pat. No. JP1-298,003 A or Harada et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,792,326). Claims 86-89, 92-93, and 95-101 were indicated as being allowed if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 86-89, 92-93, and 95-101. In order to expedite allowance of the present application, the allowable subject matter identified in Claims 86, 88, and 92 has been included respectively in independent Claims 57, 77, and 90 with clarification as to the projection area of the gas injection pipes, similar to that suggested by the outstanding Office

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Action. Independent Claim 95 has been amended (as noted below) to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph, rejections. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 57, 77, 90, and 95 (and the claims dependent therefrom) contain allowable subject matter and are in a condition for allowance.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph, rejections to Claims 95 and 101, Claims 95 and 101 have been clarified as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph, rejections to Claims 95 and 101 have been overcome.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.116 which after final rejection permits entering of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, or presenting amendments touching on the merits upon a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the amendment is necessary and was not presented earlier. The present amendment amends the independent claims to include allowable subject matter and/or to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph, rejections and thereby place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. No new matter has been added, and this amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

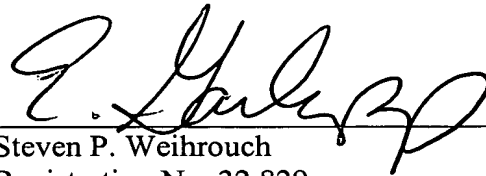
Lastly, Applicants request that the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 1, 2005 (a copy of which is available on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Patent Application and Information Retrieval PAIR system) be considered and acknowledged by return of the filed PTO-1449 form initialed by the examiner.

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In view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable and that the case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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